

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 H-01 /044 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5720

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP US KS

SUBJ: MORE ON KOREAN BANK RECORDS

REF: (A) STATE 184930, (B) SEOUL 6534

1. DURING MEETING WITH MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR PAK SANG YONG AUGUST 12 TO DISCUSS VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, PAK TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN RAISE ISSUE OF JUSTICE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE PRESSURE FOR BANK RECORDS OF ROK EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON. HE EXPRESSED ROKG APPRECIATION FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SUBPOENA OF BANK RECORDS OF MRS. KIM TONG-CHO, WIFE OF FORMER AMBASSADOR, FOLLOWING KOREAN EMBASSY AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE SUCH RECORDS ON COOPERATIVE BASIS. HE THEN WENT ON TO EXPRESS GREAT CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE ROKG OVER INDICATIONS THAT BOTH JUSTICE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE WISH TO HAVE BANK RECORDS OF FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM TONG-CHO. HE REFERRED AGAIN TO ROK NOTE OF OCTOBER 10, 1976 AND SUPPORTING LEGAL MEMORANDUM THAT SUCH RECORDS ENJOYED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO OCTOBER 19, 1976 AGREEMENT BY THE LAWYERS ON BOTH SIDES THAT ROKG WOULD COOPERATE IF SUBPOENAS WERE NOT ISSUED. AFTER SEVERAL EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, HE INDICATED THAT ROKG REMAINED WILLING TO COOPERATE BUT WAS CONCERNED OVER FISHING EXPEDITION ASPECTS OF PRESENT REQUEST. HE SAID THAT WITH EXCEPTION
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OF AMBASSADOR KIM, RECORDS FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES HAD ALREADY BEEN SEEN. WITH RESPECT TO KIM'S RECORDS HE REQUESTED THAT SPECIFIC PERIOD OF INTEREST BE INDICATED RATHER THAN FULL FIVE-YEAR RECORD OF AMBASSADOR'S TENURE IN WASHINGTON. IN CLOSING HE SAID THAT THERE WAS PRESSURE IN SEOUL TO MAKE SIMILAR REQUESTS FOR AMERICAN EMBASSY BANK RECORDS

BUT THAT MOFA HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED THIS CHILDISH
EFFORT AT QUID PRO QUO.

2. POLCOUNS NOTED HIS VIEW THAT CONTINUED KOREAN
COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER WAS MOST POSITIVE STEP
AND AVOIDED POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT CONFRONTATION
IF SUBPOENAS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO STAND. HE DECLINED
TO COMMENT ON REPORTED OCTOBER 19, 1976 AGREEMENT
BETWEEN LAWYERS BUT UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT ROKG CONCERNS
TO WASHINGTON, INCLUDING STRONG REQUEST THAT SPECIFIC
PORTIONS OF AMBASSADOR KIM'S BANK RECORDS BE REQUESTED.
POLCOUNS AGREED WITH PAK THAT EFFORTS TO EXAMINE US EMBASSY
BANK RECORDS IN SEOUL WOULD BE AN UNFORTUNATE
DEVELOPMENT.
STERN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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